

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-23 and 36-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 and 24-33 are cancelled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claim 6 was objected to; Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 24-27, 29, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Mouri (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,646 B1); Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mouri in view of Kendall (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,518); Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kazushi (Japanese Patent No. 6-176998) in view of Mouri; Claims 16-23 and 36-47 were allowed; and Claims 11-13, 28, 30, and 31 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, Claims 1-15 and 24-33 are cancelled and allowed Claims 16-23 and 36-47 are maintained. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that pending Claims 16-23 and 36-47 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 26, 2002, and July 23, 2002, it is respectfully submitted that the references of the International Search Report filed as an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on July 23, 2002, were filed on a PTO-1449 form together with the IDS filed on February 26, 2002, which is enclosed herewith with a copy of the filing receipt for the Examiner's convenience. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned to Applicants' representative.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Applicants have filed on September 15, 2003, a new Figure 6 showing the features of Claim 6. Although the outstanding Office Action accepted the new figure, the outstanding Office Action maintains the objection to the drawings for the same reasons stated in the Office Action of May 13, 2003. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 6 shows the features of Claim 6. In addition, the present amendment cancels Claim 6, and therefore the objection to the drawings is moot.

Regarding the remaining objection and rejections of Claims 1-10, 14-15, 24-27, 29, 32, and 33, Applicants respectfully submit that those objection and rejections are moot because Claims 1-15 and 24-33 are canceled.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No. 216553US2CONT/hc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Yoshitomo NAGAHASHI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/994,053

GAU: 2881

FILED: November 27, 2001

EXAMINER:

FOR: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL METHOD OF EXPOSURE APPARATUS

COPY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE/RELATED CASE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references, some of which are cited in the attached International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- ☐ Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

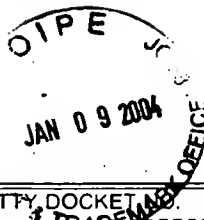
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SHEET 1 OF 1

Form PTO 1449
(Modified)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
216553US2CONTSERIAL NO.
09/994,053

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT

Yoshitomo NAGAHASHI, et al.

FILING DATE

November 27, 2001

GROUP

2881

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,877,843	03/02/99	Shin-ichi TAKAGI, et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	AO	9-82626	03/28/97	JAPAN (with corr. US 5,877,843)		X
	AP	7-130613	05/19/95	JAPAN (with English Abstract)		X
	AQ	4-22118	01/27/92	JAPAN (with English Abstract)		X
	AR	6-318538	11/15/94	JAPAN (with English Abstract)		X
	AS	6-176998	06/24/94	JAPAN (with English Abstract)		X
	AT	5-129181	05/25/93	JAPAN (with English Abstract)		X
	AU					
	AV					

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AW	
	AX	
	AY	
	AZ	

Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



COPY

OSMM&N File No. 216553US2CONT Dept.: PP
Serial No. 09/994,053 By: MJS/hc
In the matter of the Application of: Yoshitomo NAGAHASHI et al.
For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL METHOD OF EXPOSURE
APPARATUS

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent Office on the date stamped hereon:

- ☐ pp. Specification & Claims/Drawings Sheets
- ☐ Combined Declaration, Petition & Power of Attorney pages
- ☐ List of Inventor Names and Addresses
- ☐ Utility Patent Application ☐ CPA
- ☐ Notice of Priority ☐ Priority Doc
- ☐ Check for ☒ Dep. Acct. Order Form
- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
- ☐ Assignment/PTO-1595 pages:
- ☐ Letter to Official Draftsman
- ☐ Letter Requesting Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Drawings sheets ☐ Formal
- ☐ Letter
- ☐ Amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement ☒ PTO-1449
- ☒ Cited References (7)
- ☒ INTERNATIONAL Search Report and INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION Report
- ☐ Statement of Relevancy
- ☐ English Abstracts, Concise Explanation, English Translation, Partial English Translation ()
- ☐ IDS/Related/List of Related Cases ☐ Cited Pending Applications ()
- ☐ Restriction Response ☐ Election Response
- ☐ Rule 132 Declaration
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time



Due date: 02-027-02